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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A.      Washington, D. C.      SS163      June 22, 1956

## Crops Behind A Year Ago

Crop prospects improved during the past month despite some adverse conditions but were still less promising, as of June 1, than a year ago. Needed rains brightened the future for large acreages of corn, cotton, soybeans, sorghum and other crops just getting a start and brought soil moisture needed before additional plantings could be made. However, many sections had insufficient rain and badly needed more soil moisture.

## Prospects Lowest in 10 Years

"All crops" prospects on June 1, as seen by crop reporters for their own localities, were less favorable than usual at this date, reflecting the prevailing slowness of crop progress. For the Nation, these overall appraisals of crop prospects were the lowest for the date since 1945. Only in south central and western regions do they exceed last year. Some general rains, which came just after June 1 reports were submitted, may result in improved crop outlook in many localities.

## Lower Winter Wheat Prospects

Winter wheat crop is forecast at 670 million bushels compared with 705 million produced last year. This year's estimate is 2 percent below prospects a month ago, chiefly because of additional abandonment of acreage in the central Great Plains States, and in Montana. Acreage reduction more than offsets the higher yields in Texas and Oklahoma and in States east of the Mississippi. Kansas crop suffered from high mid-May temperatures but beneficial rains since then have prevented further deterioration.

## All Wheat Close to Last Year's Production

Adding the prospective spring wheat crop of 252 million bushels to the winter wheat crop, an all wheat crop of nearly 923 million bushels is indicated--just 2 percent below last year's production of 938 million. Spring wheat is off to a good start in most areas. Acreage of spring wheat in northwestern States is larger than intended earlier because of the large winter-killed acreage of winter wheat which mostly has been replanted to spring wheat.

## Other Crops, Condition June 1

Durum Wheat--88 percent, up 3 percentage points from last year; 10 year average 82 percent.  
Other Spring Wheat--88 percent, up 2 points from last year; 10 year average 83 percent.  
Rye--78 percent, up 4 points from last year; 10 year average 82 percent.  
All Hay--78 percent, down from last year by 1 point; 10 year average 85 percent.

Wild Hay--74 percent, up 7 points from last year; 10 year average 82 percent.  
Alfalfa Hay--79 percent, down 1 point from last year; 10 year average 87 percent.  
Clover and Timothy Hay--78 percent, down 5 points from last year; 10 year average 86 percent.  
Pasture--72 percent, down 6 points from last year; 10 year average 85 percent.

## Corn Planted Later Than Last Year

Planting of the corn crop was largely completed by June 1 in most of the Corn Belt States, though a little later than last year. Cool weather and frosts in late May delayed planting and germination from Ohio and Michigan eastward. But temperatures were near normal in most western sections of the Belt. Early corn was tasseling in southern sections of Texas, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina by early June and later plantings were up to a stand. Moisture reserves were low in that area and early corn was in need of rains.

## Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	April 15 1956	May 15 1956	May 15 1956
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	32.50	31.96	35.44
Wheat (bu.) ..... dol.	2.03	2.00	2.42
Rice (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.44	4.45	5.52
Corn (bu.)..... dol.	1.32	1.39	1.77
Peanuts (lb.)..... ct.	11.6	11.8	13.2
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Butterfat in cream (lb.)..... ct.	57.9	58.4	73.2
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)..... dol.	3.84	<sup>1</sup> 3.86	4.69
Wool (lb.) ..... ct.	<sup>2</sup> 40.3	<sup>2</sup> 41.1	61.2
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)..... dol.	.949	.963	1.35
Cottonseed (ton)..... dol.	46.90	47.30	70.60
Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol.	3.44	3.54	4.49
Hay, baled (ton)..... dol.	21.00	20.90	23.90
Oats (bu.)..... dol.	.623	.634	.861
Potatoes (bu.)..... dol.	1.72	2.19	1.41
Rye (bu.)..... dol.	1.01	1.01	1.69
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.)..... dol.	1.93	2.02	2.61
Soybeans (bu.)..... dol.	2.63	2.98	2.92
Sweetpotatoes (bu.)..... dol.	2.17	2.31	2.81
Oranges, on tree (box)..... dol.	1.80	2.27	2.71
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)..... dol.	2.98	3.41	2.83
Beef cattle (100 lb.)..... dol.	15.00	15.40	21.60
Calves (100 lb.)..... dol.	16.80	17.30	23.60
Hogs (100 lb.)..... dol.	14.30	15.50	21.40
Lambs (100 lb.)..... dol.	18.20	21.50	23.70
Chickens, all (lb.)..... ct.	20.3	20.7	28.6
Eggs (dozen)..... ct.	38.5	37.5	46.3

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.  
<sup>2</sup> Does not include incentive payment to bring season average return to 62 cents per pound.

## Some Improvement in Hay Prospects

This year's hay prospects improved only slightly during May over the poor outlook reported a month ago. The low temperatures which slowed growth in April continued throughout most of May from Montana and Wyoming eastward through the northern Corn Belt and the North Atlantic States. Drought conditions prevailed in large parts of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, northwestern Missouri and southwestern Iowa, and adjoining areas. Notable improvements over a month ago were reported on June 1 in the eastern Corn Belt, all South Central States and the Western States. Condition of all hay was still the lowest for June 1 in 15 years.

## Prospects for Fruits and Nuts

Total production of deciduous fruit is expected to be about equal to that of last year, but considerably below average. Late spring freezes in eastern United States and fall and winter freeze damage in the Northwest have been the major setback to fruit crops. The apple, pear, apricot, and sweet cherry crops are expected to be below

both last year and average, while the crops of sour cherries, prunes, and plums will be above last year and above average. Walnut production is estimated considerably above average with an increase in California more than offsetting the loss in Oregon. An above-average crop of almonds is expected, but filbert production will be sharply reduced because of winter damage.

## More Peaches Than Last Year

The 1956 peach crop is forecast at 62 million bushels--19 percent larger than last year and almost equal in size to the 1954 crop, but 8 percent smaller than the 1945-54 average. All North Atlantic and Middle Atlantic States except Virginia expect a smaller crop than in 1955. The Southern States and all North Central States except Kansas have prospects for a larger crop than last year. Of the Western States only California and New Mexico have larger crops than last year.

## Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

### Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan. -April 1955	Jan. -April 1956
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	152.5	154.7
Evaporated whole milk.....	Mil. lb.	825	785
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	501	573
Butter, creamery.....	Mil. lb.	462	486
Cheese, American.....	Mil. lb.	303	308
Ice cream.....	Mil. gal.	174	188
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs.....	Billions	127.1	127.2
Poultry meat <sup>2</sup> .....	Mil. lb.	900	1,149
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	56.8	64.6
Liquid egg.....	Mil. lb.	218	181
Dried egg (egg solids).....	Mil. lb.	9.1	7.6
Frozen egg.....	Mil. lb.	168	143
Chicks hatched, Total <sup>3</sup> .....	Millions	11,029	11,183
Chicks hatched-Broiler <sup>3</sup> .....	Millions	1504	1624
Poults hatched <sup>2</sup> .....			
Heavy breeds.....	Millions	139.4	150.4
Light breeds.....	Millions	17.7	16.5
<u>Meat Production<sup>2</sup></u> (dressed weight)			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	4,094	4,568
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	442	448
Pork.....	Mil. lb.	3,359	3,754
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	256	262
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	8,151	9,032
<u>Slaughter<sup>2</sup></u>			
Cattle.....	1,000 head	7,949	8,404
Calves.....	1,000 head	3,956	3,906
Hogs.....	1,000 head	24,735	28,976
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	5,286	5,449

Item	1955		1956		
	May	Yr.	Mar	Apr.	May
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) <sup>1</sup> .....	55.7	56.5	57.4	57.6	58.1
Farm employment.....	8.9	8.2	6.6	7.8	8.7
Family.....	6.9	6.3	5.4	6.2	6.7
Hired.....	2.0	1.9	1.3	1.5	2.0
Index numbers (1947-49 = 100)					
Industrial production <sup>2</sup> .....	138	139	141	143	142
Total personal income payments <sup>3</sup> .....	149	150	156	157	
Weekly factory earnings <sup>4</sup> .....	150	153	158	157	156
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker <sup>4</sup> .....	144	145	149	148	148
Wholesale prices, all commodities <sup>4</sup> .....	110	111	113	114	114
Farm commodities.....	91	90	87	88	91
Food, processed.....	102	102	99	100	102
Consumer price index <sup>4</sup> .....	114	114	115	115	
Food.....	111	111	109	110	
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers.....	242	236	228	235	242
Crops.....	249	237	236	245	252
Food grains.....	240	228	223	229	226
Feed grains and hay.....	200	187	174	185	192
Cotton.....	266	272	267	275	270
Tobacco.....	436	437	453	453	454
Oil bearing crops.....	259	250	245	253	265
Fruit.....	209	212	211	218	233
Vegetables for fresh market.....	263	233	258	260	272
Livestock and products.....	235	236	221	227	233
Meat animals.....	260	249	221	237	251
Dairy products.....	236	252	250	246	247
Poultry and eggs.....	176	188	187	180	178
Prices paid by farmers:					
All commodities.....	263	262	261	261	264
Used in living.....	274	273	274	274	278
Used in production.....	251	250	246	248	250
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index).....	282	281	282	284	286
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted.....	516	516	522	538	538
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index).....	86	84	81	83	85

<sup>1</sup> January-May

<sup>2</sup> Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

<sup>3</sup> By commercial hatcheries.

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of the Census.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Commerce.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Reserve Board.

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics.



### Smaller Apple Crop

Reported condition for commercial apples points to a smaller crop than last year for the country as a whole. In the Eastern Region, the crop was reduced by April and May freezes which caused considerable damage to buds and bloom in nearly all States. Central States had some frost damage but in general prospects are for a better crop than in 1955. In the Western States, production is expected to be considerably below last year, primarily as a result of winter injury although some spring frost damage also occurred. The New England States had freeze damage to apple buds and bloom. Damage was light in Connecticut and Maine while Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont were harder hit.

### Relatively Few Oranges Left for Harvest

Orange crop, 1955-56 season, is estimated at 130.4 million boxes, about same as year earlier, but 17 percent above average. About 27 million boxes were unharvested on June 1 compared with 28 million a year earlier. The unharvested included 19 million boxes of California Valencias this season compared with 20.5 million last season. California Valencias will be mostly harvested in the summer and early fall; in the other States orange harvest will be finished by early July.

### More Grapefruit Than Last Year, Fewer Lemons

Grapefruit crop is estimated at 46 million boxes--9 percent above last season but 7 percent below average. About 4.6 million boxes remained for harvest on June 1 this year compared with 3.7 million remaining on June 1, 1955. Except for about 1.5 million boxes of California summer grapefruit, this crop will all be harvested by early July. California lemons are placed at 13.4 million boxes--4 percent less than last season but 3 percent above average.

### Pears About Same As Last Year

Pears are forecast at 29,327,000 bushels--just slightly below last year and about 3 percent below average. The Pacific Coast States are expected to have 25,746,000 bushels--about 4 percent below last year and about equal to average. The Bartlett crop in this area, at 19,333,000 bushels, is expected to be 4 percent below last year and about equal to average. The Winter pear varieties in this area are forecast at 6,413,000 bushels--5 percent below last year and 6 percent below average.

### Estimates for Cherries

Sweet cherries, forecast at 79,540 tons, will be about 30 percent below last year and 17 percent below average. Production of sour cherries in the 6 western States is expected to be 11,280 tons. This would top last year by 4 percent and average by 3 percent.

### Little Change in Egg Output

Hens laid 5.6 billion eggs in May, about the same as a year earlier but down from average by 4 percent. Production January through May (27.2 billion eggs) was 1 percent more than in the same 5 months of last year.

### CURRENT ESTIMATES

#### Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, April 1956<sup>1</sup>

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
Maine.....	7,910	18,704	26,614
New Hampshire.....	4,420	855	5,275
Vermont.....	7,624	2,223	9,847
Massachusetts.....	9,339	4,611	13,950
Rhode Island.....	1,359	407	1,766
Connecticut.....	8,801	6,819	15,620
New York.....	50,266	13,390	63,656
New Jersey.....	15,275	7,531	22,806
Pennsylvania.....	45,519	13,384	58,903
North Atlantic.....	150,513	67,924	218,437
Ohio.....	51,106	23,200	74,306
Indiana.....	52,435	14,737	67,172
Illinois.....	80,875	45,248	126,123
Michigan.....	23,650	12,146	45,796
Wisconsin.....	75,486	5,904	81,390
East North Central.....	293,552	101,235	394,787
Minnesota.....	73,118	16,875	89,993
Iowa.....	121,026	23,446	144,472
Missouri.....	47,874	6,599	54,473
North Dakota.....	8,906	18,668	27,574
South Dakota.....	24,306	6,243	30,549
Nebraska.....	57,321	13,539	70,860
Kansas.....	43,055	13,424	56,479
West North Central.....	375,606	98,794	474,400
Delaware.....	5,104	908	6,012
Maryland.....	12,557	2,391	14,948
Virginia.....	16,179	4,782	20,961
West Virginia.....	5,951	1,323	7,274
North Carolina.....	18,083	8,132	26,215
South Carolina.....	6,412	6,843	13,255
Georgia.....	26,675	7,310	33,985
Florida.....	11,641	64,537	76,178
South Atlantic.....	102,602	96,226	198,828
Kentucky.....	18,994	2,547	21,541
Tennessee.....	17,415	2,672	20,087
Alabama.....	16,137	6,932	23,069
Mississippi.....	12,282	12,309	24,591
Arkansas.....	14,358	19,786	34,144
Louisiana.....	9,900	9,080	18,980
Oklahoma.....	20,706	1,817	22,523
Texas.....	78,091	16,398	94,489
South Central.....	187,883	71,541	259,424
Montana.....	5,886	15,054	20,940
Idaho.....	11,337	12,356	23,693
Wyoming.....	3,705	1,204	4,909
Colorado.....	20,735	8,238	28,973
New Mexico.....	8,446	2,806	11,252
Arizona.....	10,419	12,819	23,238
Utah.....	8,627	1,212	9,839
Nevada.....	3,268	253	3,521
Washington.....	14,039	11,196	25,235
Oregon.....	12,308	8,422	20,730
California.....	79,079	68,887	147,966
Western.....	177,849	142,447	320,296
United States.....	1,288,005	578,167	1,866,172

<sup>1</sup> All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. Revised estimates for January-March will be published in the next issue of The Farm Income Situation.

## Cash Receipts from Farming, United States<sup>1</sup>

Source	April 1956	May 1956 <sup>2</sup>
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Farm marketings and CCC loans <sup>3</sup> .....	1,866	2,000
Livestock and products .....	1,288	1,400
Meat animals .....	622	
Dairy products .....	381	
Poultry and eggs .....	258	
Other .....	27	600
Crops .....	578	
Food grains .....	79	
Feed crops .....	108	
Cotton (lint and seed) .....	34	
Oil-bearing crops .....	30	
Tobacco .....	6	
Vegetables .....	152	
Fruits and tree nuts .....	58	
Other .....	111	
Government payments .....	17	
Total cash receipts .....	1,883	

<sup>1</sup> For comparison of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. Revised estimates of cash receipts and physical volume of farm marketing for January-March will be published in the next issue of The Farm Income Situation.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

## Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's  
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1</sup>	Farm value <sup>2</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1955 average .....	\$975	\$396	\$579	41%
1955-Apr. <sup>3</sup> .....	981	413	568	42
1956-Mar. ....	949	374	575	39
1956-Apr. ....	956	382	574	40

<sup>1</sup> Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing. <sup>3</sup> Revised.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

## Milk Output Up; Steady Per Capita

Milk Production in May was an all-time record for the month. The 12,974 million pounds was up 1 percent from a year ago and 5 percent above the 1945-54 average of 12,348 million pounds. On a per capita basis, it was about the same as for the same month last year--2.5 pounds per person, per day--but was 6 percent less than average.

## 8 Percent Fewer Pigs Indicated

Spring pig crop, at 53 million head, shows a decline of 8 percent from a year earlier. Pigs saved per litter was a new record--6.94, compared with 6.90 year ago. Reports on breeding intentions indicate fall farrowings will be down 7 percent from last fall, resulting in a fall pig crop of about 35 million head, or a total, spring and fall, of 88 million head. This would be 8 percent less than last year and near average.

## Prospects for Vegetables, Strawberries

Spring vegetable prospects, at 2.74 million tons, top last year's tonnage by 2 percent and will be about 15 percent above average. Production of summer crops will be smaller than in 1955 chiefly because of reduced acreage. Planted acreage for commercial processing--9 principal vegetable crops--is expected to be about 9 percent larger than last year.

Strawberry crop is expected to be the largest of record.

## Potato Production Down from Last Year

Production of late spring potatoes, now estimated at 39,310,000 bushels, is 6 percent below the 1955 production and 4 percent below average. New estimate is down from last months forecast by about 3 percent. Summer commercial potatoes are expected to total 15,413,000 bushels from the 63,550 acres for harvest this year. Last year, the production was 18,576,000 bushels on the 71,100 acres grown for summer harvest.

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